



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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New South Wales Year Book 1998 released today

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released its 78th edition of the **New South Wales Year Book** today. The edition contains a comprehensive and detailed statistical review of various aspects of the economy and social conditions in NSW. It also contains details of major NSW historical events and selected historical statistics back to 1901.

A full range of data collected by the ABS, supplemented with information from over fifty NSW Government Departments and Authorities, are included. There is a special article on Transport Patterns, prepared with the assistance of the NSW Department of Transport.

The 1998 New South Wales Year Book is a wonderful reference tool, and source of stories for media, with chapters on Government; Geography and Climate; Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces; Social and Welfare; Health; Law and Order; Transport and Communication; a range of Industry chapters and more.

Some facts in brief from the New South Wales Year Book

- Overseas visitors increased and more residents went on overseas trips in 1997.
- The largest number of permanent overseas settlers in 1995-96 came from China.
- Imports were down by 2 per cent and exports were up by 6 per cent in 1996-97.
- USA was our largest import trader and Japan our main export partner.
- In 1996 we were marrying less at an older age and divorcing more.
- Heart attacks and heart disease continue to be our biggest cause of death.
- There were over 480 million passenger journeys on government rail, bus and ferry services in 1996-97.
- There were 180 849 kilometres of public roads at 30 June 1997.
- For each hectare planted, 23 tonnes of potatoes were produced in 1996, compared to 5 tonnes in 1901.
- In the Manufacturing industry, turnover per person employed was \$220 000 in 1995-96, compared to \$775 in 1901.

As with most ABS publications, copies of the Year Book are available in public libraries in all metropolitan and regional areas of New South Wales. Copies are available for purchase (\$39.00) from the ABS Bookshop, Level 5, St Andrews House, Sydney, or order by phone on (02) 9268 4620.

Members of the media who require a review copy please contact Fiona Penfold on (02) 9268 4635.

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